

USSR/SAKHAROV

BROKAW: The United States says that new pictures of dissident Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, provide little reassurance about their conditions. The State Department said the pictures prove nothing, and it said Moscow is trying to divert attention from a report that Mrs. Bonner had been sentenced to five years of internal exile. The pictures arrived in West Germany. Stan Bernard reports tonight they were carefully packaged by the Soviets.

BERNARD: These are the new pictures of Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet scientist, Nobel Prize winner and dissident. Bild Zeitung, a West German newspaper, banner-headlined the publication of the pictures and called them unmistakable proof that Sakharov, who has at various times been reported to be on a hunger strike and critically ill, has ended his hunger strike and appears to be healthy. The pictures were all taken in Gorky, where Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, have been forced to live in internal exile. An assistant chief editor of the newspaper, Peter *Bartels, received an 18-minute videotape from Soviet journalist Victor *Louis, who has often negotiated deals with the Western media. Bartels said the videotape was slick and professional. PETER\BARTELS: ...and must be 99 percent from the Soviet KGB.

BERNARD: Bartels said the Soviet source confirmed that some of the pictures were two years old, like these of Yelena Bonner buying gas and going marketing. But there were recent pictures of Sakharov with a July 16 edition of Newsweek magazine in his hand, all of the pictures, taken with hidden cameras without the Sakharovs' knowledge. The Sakharovs' daughter viewed the pictures in the United States and thought her parents did not look well.

TATIANA\YANKELEVICH: It's a double feeling, because I was heartened to see them alive, and at the same time, I was stricken by the way they look, especially my father. He has changed enormously.

BERNARD: The West German newspaper says it asked for proof the Sakharovs are alive and well and got it. But it also concedes it was used to as a vehicle for the unofficial Kremlin response to all the criticism the Soviet's have been getting for their treatment of the Sakharovs and the Soviet refusal to release them. Stan Bernard, NBC News, Frankfurt.